

## ***St Peter's Province.***

### **About St. Patrick's Church, Digby (N. Sc.).**

Digby (including Mount Pleasant and Collodon) cares for around 150 families. There is one church, St. Patrick's.

#### ***A. Missions.***

1. Marshaltown - St. Theresa's Church - 100 families.

2. Waterford - St. Longinus Church - 35 families.

3. Bear River - St. Ann's Church - 35 families.

4. Deep Brook - Our Lady of Perpetual Help - 25 families.

#### ***B. The Faith.***

The faith in this entire district is, to say the least, « pathetic ». Fallen-away Catholics are possibly as numerous as those who practice. Marriages outside the Church are as common as house flies. Attendance at Mass and the Sacraments is a matter of little interest to a great many. Taking the districts individually, Digby is better than some, since they have had a resident priest and Sisters for eight years. Marshaltown is very poor. It is known to the 'Mounties' as 'Little Texas'. Bootlegging is the upkeep of a great number. Anything can happen there. Probably less than half the Catholics are regular Church-goers. Waterford, strange to say, is much better. At both these missions reception of the Sacraments is very poor. The faith at Bear River is much better. The church there is on the Indian Reserve (on top of Indian Hill). A little

less than half the Catholics are members of the Mic-Mao tribe and very fine folks. The small number of Catholics at Deep Brook are also very good. Reception of the Sacraments at these last two missions is good. On the odd Sunday there has been a hundred per cent attendance at the rail.

### *C. The Work Being Done.*

There are two Masses each Sunday and throughout the week at St. Patrick's in Digby. The sisters also have Mass each morning. Father Murphy handles the two Sunday Masses in Digby and will say three from June to September.

Each of the Mission churches has Mass on Sunday. Father McCarty has been taking two (at 8:30 and 10 o'clock) and I do the same for the other two. The roundtrip for each of us is about 25 miles. Confessions are heard before Mass.

There is Benediction in Digby twice a week, on Friday and Sunday evenings and again at Novena services on Wednesday afternoon. Benediction is given also at the Mission churches: on Tuesday at Bear River, Wednesday Deep Brook. Thursday at Waterford, Friday at Marshalltown. With every Benediction goes the rosary and a sermon. We take every occasion to instruct: ignorance of religious matters is the order of the day.

Besides these duties, sick-calls and Communion calls average about twenty a week. Catechism is taught by the Fathers seven times a week. Convert classes would probably average fourteen a week. The hospital is visited at least four times a week and Communion taken there on the average of three mornings a week and as often as a Catholic is operated on. Parish work probably runs the cars fifteen hundred miles a month.

#### *D. Work Accomplished.*

Baptisms - There have been 133 Baptisms during the past 1½ years, nearly half of whom were not infants.

Converts - Twelve have been converted (mostly from Baptist Church).

Marriages - There have been 31 marriages, several of which were revalidations. We have at present a long list of marriages to be rectified.

Communions - Attendance at the Communion rail has probably quadrupled since our arrival.

Mass - Attendance at Mass and devotions has increased many times.

#### *E. Material Progress.*

Every Church is now equipped with what is needed for Mass and Benediction. The vestments and so on are not good enough in some instance, but they suffice. Electricity has been installed in three of the Mission churches. Bear River alone still uses oil lamps. The Marshaltown Church has been completed and painted inside. The Waterford church has been re-done and the grave-yard there cleared of bush and trees which had grown up over the years.

The lack of faith and neglect evident throughout the district cannot be blamed on the priests who preceded. They did wonderful work but were unable to do everything. Until a few years ago one priest covered this area plus Anapolis territory - sixty miles along the highway.

As much, if not more, has been accomplished and is being accomplished by the Fathers at Anapolis Royal.